

**MINUTES**  
**HINDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**ANNUAL BOARD MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 25, 2024**

Pursuant to Public Notice issued by Secretary-Treasurer, Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, the Annual Board Meeting of the Hinds County Economic Development Authority was held on September 25, 2024, at the Authority Office, 125 South Congress Street, Suite 1500, Jackson, MS, and via teleconference, at 4:00 p.m. The following were present constituting a quorum:

**Trustees Present**

Jason E. Owens, President  
Willie A. Jones, Vice President  
Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, Secretary-Treasurer  
Dr. Vanda M. Brumfield  
Vincent J. Byrd  
James E. Covington  
Dr. Yolanda D. McElroy – *via teleconference*  
Robert G. Morgan, II – *via teleconference*  
Jared W. Turner – *via teleconference*  
LeRoy Walker, Jr.  
Mark Wise  
Louis P. Wright – *via teleconference*

**Trustees Absent**

None

**Excused Absences**

None

**Staff Present**

Luxie L. Frison, Director of Office Management & Accounting  
Kemsye T. Smith, Director of Workforce Development & Asst. Business Development Director

**Consultant**

Glenn McCullough, Jr., Senior Advisor to the HCEEDA Board of Trustees

**Attorney Present**

Dorian E. Turner

**Guests Present**

None

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**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jason E. Owens called the Annual Board Meeting of the Hinds County Economic Development Authority to order at 4:01 p.m. Edderek L. (Beau) Cole offered the invocation. Luxie L. Frison recorded the minutes and provided hosting services for videoconference access to the meeting.

*James E. Covington entered the meeting.*  
*Mark Wise entered the meeting.*

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon a motion by LeRoy Walker Jr., seconded by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, with eight trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Morgan, Owens, Walker, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to approve the agenda as presented.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion by LeRoy Walker Jr., seconded by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, with eight trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Morgan, Owens, Walker, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to approve the August 28, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes, and May 3, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

*Jared W. Turner joined the meeting via teleconference at 4:04 p.m.*

**PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING**

President Jason Owens gave brief remarks.

**FINANCE REPORT**

The Finance Report, consisting of a **Balance Sheet** and **Statement of Revenues and Expenses** for the period ended August 31, 2024, and a **Check Detail Report** were presented. *(Attachment No. 1 and 2)*

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Upon a motion by James E. Covington, seconded by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, with nine trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Morgan, Owens, Turner, Walker, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to approve the August 2024 Check Detail Report.

Upon a motion by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, seconded by James E. Covington, with nine trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Morgan, Owens, Turner, Walker, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to grant Ms. Frison permission to pay future invoices received for FY 2023-2024.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR UPDATE**

Glenn McCullough, Jr., Senior Advisor to the HCEDEA Board of Trustees, reported on meetings and ongoing projects.

*Willie A. Jones entered the meeting at 4:15 p.m.*

**DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Director of Workforce Development and Assistant Business Development, Kemsye T. Smith, reported on ACT WorkKeys Readiness Certificate testing, Hinds County workforce data and grant updates. She also reported that Visit Jackson is requesting that HCEDEA provide \$10,000.00 in financial support of a 2025 Legislative Welcome Reception. President Owens requested documentation on this event and tabled a vote on this matter until a special-called board meeting. (*Attachment No. 3*)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget Committee**

Budget Committee Chairman, Edderek Cole, reported on the committee's September 25th meeting and shared receipt of the Authority's FY2024-2025 funding allocation from the Hinds County Board of Supervisors in the amount of \$601,033.00. The Budget Committee is recommending (1) the board's acceptance of the budget allocation from Hinds County, and (2) authorization of President Owens to sign the Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Agreement.

Upon a motion by James E. Covington, seconded by Robert G. Morgan, II, with ten trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Jones, Morgan, Owens, Turner, Walker, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was



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**RESOLVED** to accept the funding allocation from Hinds County and to authorize President Owens to sign the corresponding Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Agreement in the amount of \$601,033.00.

Chairman Cole also presented the committee's recommended FY2024-2025 Proposed Budget in the amount of \$1,068,340.53.

Upon a motion by James E. Covington, seconded by LeRoy Walker, Jr., with ten trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Jones, Morgan, Owens, Turner, Walker, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to accept the FY2024-2025 Proposed Budget of \$1,068,340.53.

**Personnel Committee**

Upon a motion by Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, seconded by LeRoy Walker, Jr., with ten trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Jones, Morgan, Owens, Turner, Walker, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to close the meeting to consider going into executive session.

In closed session, upon a motion by LeRoy Walker Jr., seconded by James E. Covington, with ten trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Jones, Morgan, Owens, Turner, Walker, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to enter executive session to hear a report and discuss the candidates for the executive director position.

In executive session, the trustees heard a report regarding the qualifications of the candidates for the executive director position. The Board took no action.

There being no further business to discuss in executive session, upon a motion by James E. Covington, seconded by LeRoy Walker, Jr., with ten trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Jones, Morgan, Owens, Turner, Walker, and Wise) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to exit executive session.

*Dr. Yolanda D. McElroy joined the meeting via teleconference.*

**Nominating & Governance Committee**

Chairman Jared W. Turner reported that the committee met and approved the recommended process for electing officers and reviewed the three names received in response to the interest email

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sent to all trustees. The names received and being submitted today as candidates for FY 2024-2025 officer elections: LeRoy Walker, Jr. and Willie A. Jones for President, and Vanda M. Brumfield for Vice-President. No names have been received for the office of Secretary-Treasurer, and it will remain open, and nominations will be taken from the floor.

By consensus, the board approved the committee's nomination process for electing officers.

Chairman Turner put forth Leroy Walker, Jr. and Willie A. Jones as the submitted candidates for the office of President and opened nominations from the floor. Willie A. Jones rescinded her name and nominated Edderek L. (Beau) Cole for the office of President. Trustee Cole accepted the nomination. Both candidates were given a few minutes to speak on why they should be elected president.

*Louis P. Wright joined the call via teleconference at 5:02 p.m.*

President Owens asked for votes for the office of President and eight trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Jones, McElroy, Morgan, Owens, and Wise) voted in support of Trustee Cole and four trustees (Covington, Turner, Walker and Wright) voted in support of Trustee Walker.

With eight votes for Cole and four for Walker, **Edderek L. (Beau) Cole was elected FY 2024-2025 President.**

Chairman Turner put forth Vanda M. Brumfield as the submitted candidate for the office of Vice President and opened nominations from the floor. Mark Wise nominated Willie A. Jones for the office of Vice President. Trustee Jones accepted the nomination.

President Owens asked for votes for the office of Vice President and seven trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Covington, Morgan, Owens, Walker, and Turner) voted in support of Trustee Brumfield, and five trustees (Cole, Jones, McElroy, Wise and Wright) voted in support of Trustee Jones.

With seven votes for Brumfield and five for Jones, **Vanda M. Brumfield was elected FY 2024-2025 Vice President.**

James E. Covington nominated Robert G. Morgan, II, for the office of Secretary-Treasurer. Trustee Morgan accepted the nomination. Upon a motion by Jared W. Turner, seconded by LeRoy Walker, Jr., with twelve trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Jones, McElroy, Morgan, Owens, Turner, Walker, Wise, and Wright) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to close the nominations.

With only one nomination and by unanimous vote, **Robert G. Morgan, II was elected FY 2024-2025 Secretary-Treasurer.**


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**ADJOURNMENT**

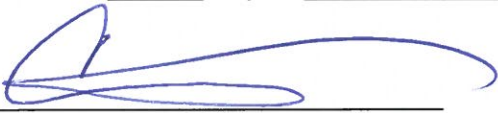
There being no further business, upon a motion by LeRoy Walker, Jr. seconded by James E. Covington, with all twelve trustees (Brumfield, Byrd, Cole, Covington, Jones, McElroy, Morgan, Owens, Turner, Walker, Wise, and Wright) present voting in favor, it was

**RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting.

**Economic Development Authority  
Hinds County, Mississippi**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jason E. Owens, President**

ATTEST this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Edderek L. (Beau) Cole, Secretary-Treasurer**

**Attachments:**

1. Finance Report
2. Check Detail Report
3. Director of Workforce Development and Assistant Business Development Report